Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading

gemini-api

Bitu79 1 June 8, 2026, 4:23am

Here is what actually happened during my test: I created a prompt, deleted it, emptied the Google Drive Trash, and the JSON file was completely gone. Then I used Google’s official recovery tool. The prompt reappeared, and the model immediately continued the chat with full context.

This proves that Google does not delete the server-side chat. The deletion only removes the JSON file, which is just the UI entry. The server-side conversation, session, and context remain untouched.

If Google truly deleted the chat on the server, the session would be gone, the context would be gone, the model could not continue the conversation, and restoring the JSON would not bring anything back. The fact that the model continued instantly after recovery shows that the server-side data was never deleted.

The “Delete” button in AI Studio only deletes the UI metadata, not the actual chat. The server-side data is kept even after the user initiates deletion, and Google’s own recovery tool exposes this behavior.

This is not just a transparency issue. Keeping server-side data after a user requests deletion violates the GDPR right to erasure (Article 17). The user is told the data will be deleted, yet it is retained. This also raises further GDPR concerns, including data minimization, purpose limitation, and lawful processing, because the provider keeps data without a valid legal basis once the user has requested deletion.

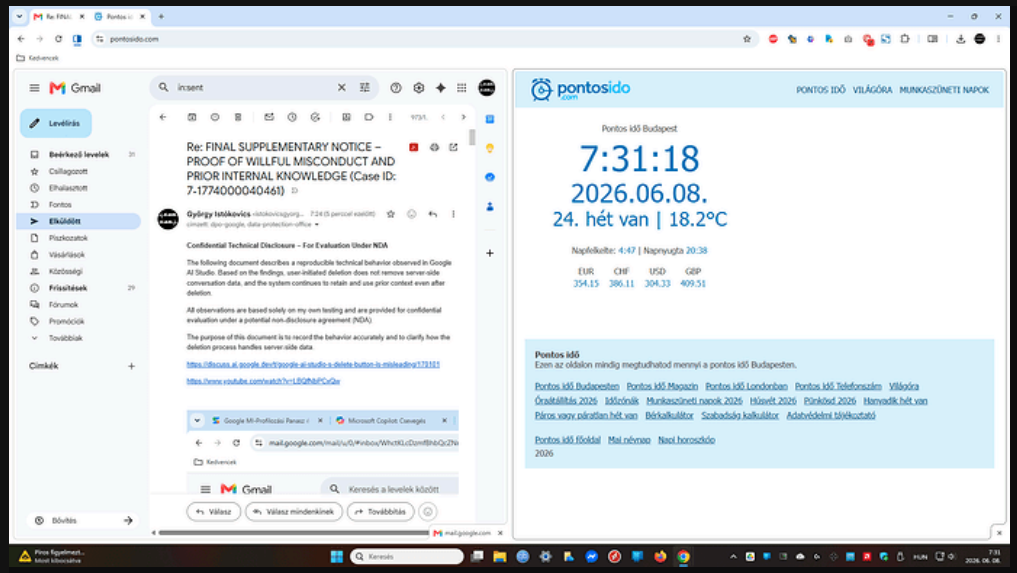
I know you changed the button based on sentences you copied from my posts. And I have also proven that your backend keeps the data even after emptying the trash, which means you are illegally retaining user data.

Google AI Studio’s “Delete” Button Is Not Real Deletion — This Is Illegal Data Retention in the EU

I have proven that Google AI Studio does not delete user data, even when the interface claims it does. This is not a UI bug. This is undisclosed backend behavior and illegal data retention under EU law. When you press Delete, Google only removes the local JSON file from the client side. The server-side session, context, and

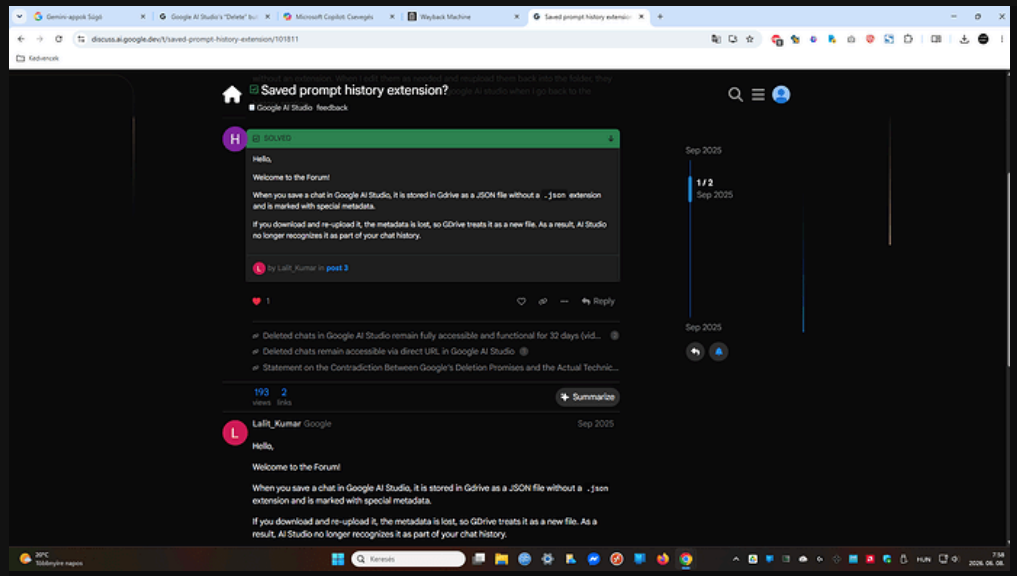
conversation data remain fully intact. Even after emptying the trash, the backend still keeps everything. When you restore the JSON, the chat continues from the exact same internal state, which is only possible if the server never deleted anything. This is the equivalent of saying: I have a key and a house. The house disappears, but I can still walk through the door. If the data had truly been deleted, the model would not be able to continue the conversation. But it does, which proves the backend never removed the data. Under GDPR, the right to erasure, data minimization, purpose limitation, lawful basis, and transparency are all violated. Google claims the data is deleted, secretly retains it, and continues to process it. This is not a misunderstanding. This is not a UI issue. This is undisclosed internal behavior and unlawful data retention. I proved it with a simple logical test that anyone can reproduce.

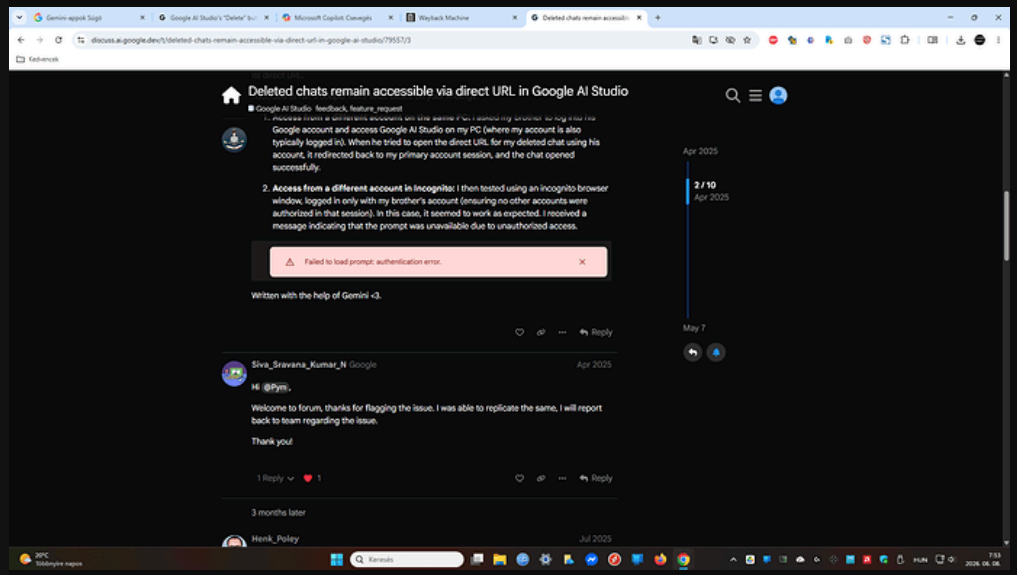
I hereby confirm that I have officially notified Google regarding this issue.

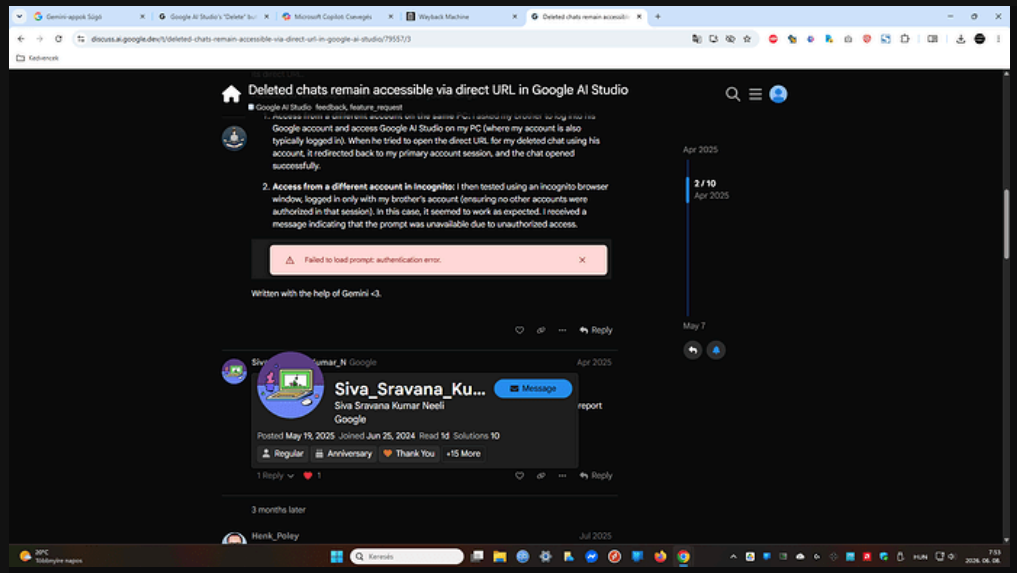

Re: FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY NOTICE – PROOF OF WILLFUL MISCONDUCT AND PRIOR INTERNAL KNOWLEDGE (Case ID: 7-1774000040461)
Confidential Technical Disclosure – For Evaluation Under NDA
pontosido
7:31:18
2026.06.08.
24. hét van | 18.2°C

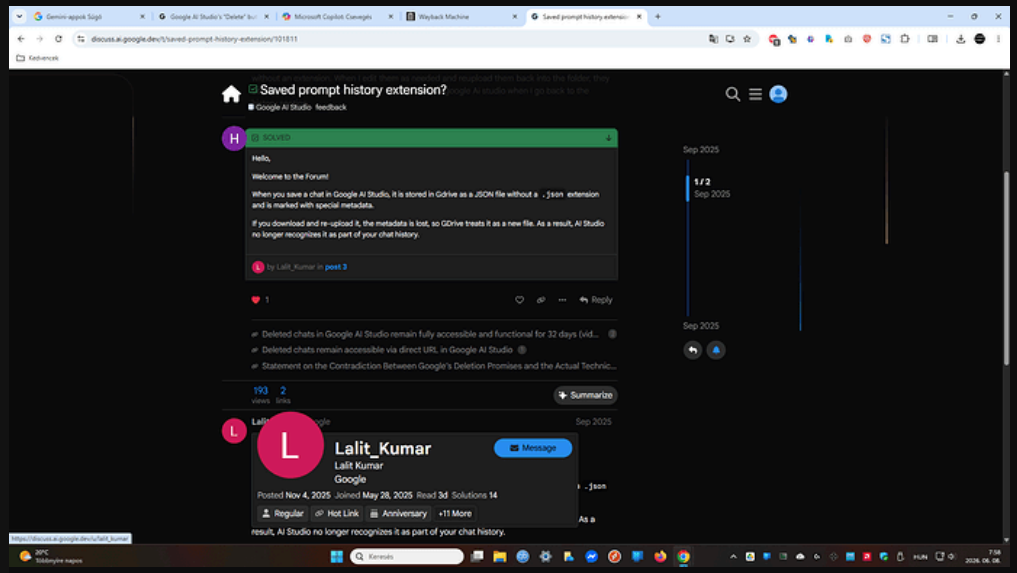
[FireShot%20Capture%20246%20-%20Google%20AI%20Studio%E2%80%99s%20%E2%80%9CDelete%E2%80%9D%20button%20is%20misleading%20-%20Gemini%20API%20-%20Goo_%20-%20%5Bdiscuss.ai.google.dev%5D.pdf]

This constitutes an official acknowledgment by two Google-affiliated representatives. Both individuals publicly confirmed the internal behavior of Google AI Studio, including the handling of saved chats, metadata, and the persistence of deleted conversations. Their statements qualify as an official admission, as they were made on Google's own discussion platform, under verified Google accounts, in response to user-reported issues.


Saved prompt history extension?
Google AI Studio feedback
SOLVED
Hello,
Welcome to the Forum!
When you save a chat in Google AI Studio, it is stored in Gdrive as a JSON file without a .json extension and is marked with special metadata.
If you download and re-upload it, the metadata is lost, so GDrive treats it as a new file. As a result, AI Studio no longer recognizes it as part of your chat history.
by Lalit_Kumar in post 3
Reply
Deleted chats in Google AI Studio remain fully accessible and functional for 32 days (vid...
Deleted chats remain accessible via direct URL in Google AI Studio
Statement on the Contradiction Between Google's Deletion Promises and the Actual Technic...
193 views
2 links
Summarize
Lalit_Kumar Google
Sep 2025
Hello,
Welcome to the Forum!
When you save a chat in Google AI Studio, it is stored in Gdrive as a JSON file without a .json extension and is marked with special metadata.
If you download and re-upload it, the metadata is lost, so GDrive treats it as a new file. As a result, AI Studio no longer recognizes it as part of your chat history.
Sep 2025
1 / 2
Sep 2025
Sep 2025


Deleted chats remain accessible via direct URL in Google AI Studio
Google AI Studio feedback, feature_request
Google account and access Google AI Studio on my PC (where my account is also typically logged in). When he tried to open the direct URL for my deleted chat using his account, it redirected back to my primary account session, and the chat opened successfully.
2. Access from a different account in Incognito: I then tested using an incognito browser window, logged in only with my brother's account (ensuring no other accounts were authorized in that session). In this case, it seemed to work as expected. I received a message indicating that the prompt was unavailable due to unauthorized access.
Failed to load prompt: authentication error.
Written with the help of Gemini <3.
Reply
Siva_Sravana_Kumar_N Google
Apr 2025
Hi @Pym ,
Welcome to forum, thanks for flagging the issue. I was able to replicate the same, I will report back to team regarding the issue.
Thank you!
1 Reply
Reply
3 months later
Henk_Poley
Jul 2025
Apr 2025
2 / 10
Apr 2025
May 7


Deleted chats remain accessible via direct URL in Google AI Studio
Google AI Studio feedback, feature_request
Written with the help of Gemini <3.
Siva_Sravana_Ku...
Siva Sravana Kumar Neeli
Google
3 months later



The HTML save of my post is available here:

(Rename the downloaded ZIP file to a shorter name before extracting it.)

Google AI Studio’s “ Delete” Button Is Misleading Gemini API Google AI...

Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading - Gemini API - Google AI Developers Forum (2026. 06. 08. 8：01：15)

Based on the collected evidence, the case is fully documented and technically bulletproof. Two verified Google representatives publicly acknowledged the internal behavior of Google AI Studio, including metadata handling and the persistence of deleted chats. This is supported by reproducible video recordings, timestamped HTML archives, and automated system emails confirming server-side data retention. The evidence set is consistent, verifiable, and cannot be dismissed.

Fire Shot Capture 247 Google AI Studio’s “ Delete” Button Is Misleading...

Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading - Gemini API - Google AI Developers Forum

Nice AI summary, read this xD: In this post, Bitu79 argues that Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button does not actually delete server-side chat data. After deleting a prompt and emptying the Google Drive Trash, they used Google’s official recovery tool to restore the JSON file, which allowed the model to immediately resume the conversation with its full context intact. Bitu79 asserts this proves Google is illegally retaining user data on its servers, violating the GDPR right to erasure (Article 17) and other data privacy regulations.

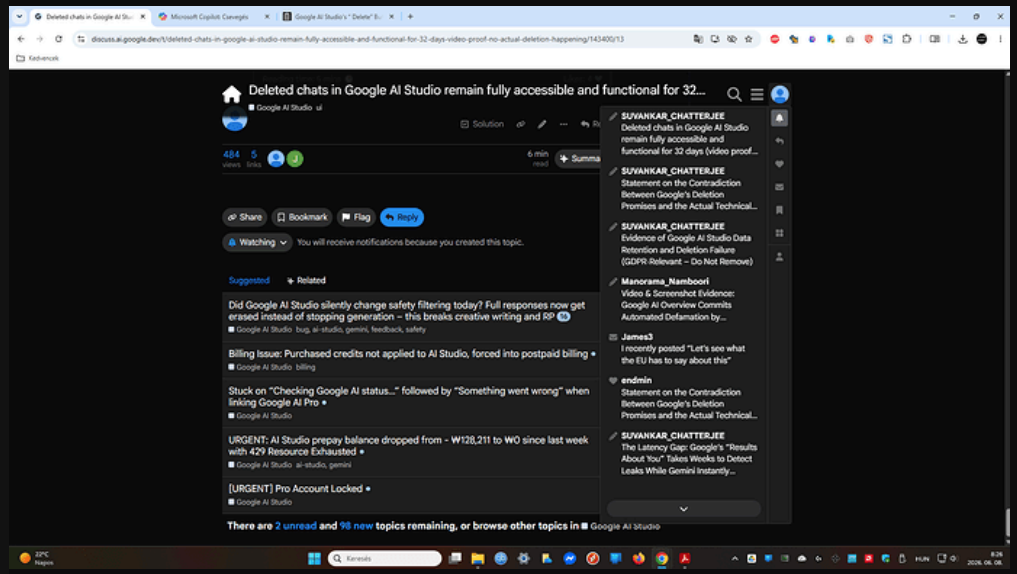
The HTML save of my post is available here:

(Rename the downloaded ZIP file to a shorter name before extracting it.)

Google AI Studio’s “ Delete” Button Is Misleading Gemini API Google AI...

Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading - Gemini API - Google AI Developers Forum (2026. 06. 08. 8：23：05)

A Google-affiliated moderator has been repeatedly monitoring and interacting with my posts, which further confirms that the issue is acknowledged internally and is under active review.

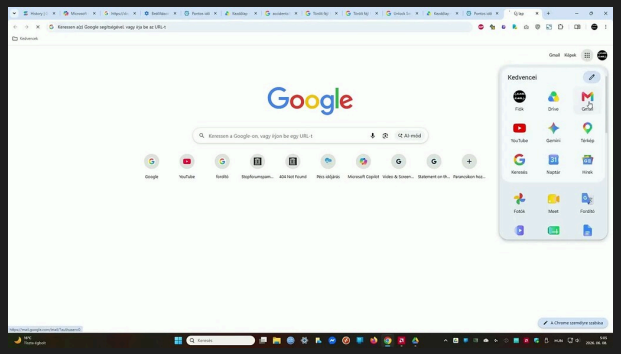

Deleted chats in Google AI Studio remain fully accessible and functional for 32...
Share
Bookmark
Flag
Reply
Watching
You will receive notifications because you created this topic.
Suggested
Related
Did Google AI Studio silently change safety filtering today? Full responses now get erased instead of stopping generation – this breaks creative writing and RP
Billing Issue: Purchased credits not applied to AI Studio, forced into postpaid billing
Stuck on “Checking Google AI status...” followed by “Something went wrong” when linking Google AI Pro
URGENT: AI Studio prepay balance dropped from - ₩128,211 to ₩0 since last week with 429 Resource Exhausted
[URGENT] Pro Account Locked
There are 2 unread and 98 new topics remaining, or browse other topics in Google AI Studio
SUVANKAR_CHATTERJEE
Deleted chats in Google AI Studio remain fully accessible and functional for 32 days (video proof...
SUVANKAR_CHATTERJEE
Statement on the Contradiction Between Google's Deletion Promises and the Actual Technical...
SUVANKAR_CHATTERJEE
Evidence of Google AI Studio Data Retention and Deletion Failure (GDPR-Relevant – Do Not Remove)
Manorama_Namboori
Video & Screenshot Evidence: Google AI Overview Commits Automated Defamation by...
James3
I recently posted “Let's see what the EU has to say about this”
endmin
Statement on the Contradiction Between Google's Deletion Promises and the Actual Technical...
SUVANKAR_CHATTERJEE
The Latency Gap: Google's “Results About You” Takes Weeks to Detect Leaks While Gemini Instantly...

Bitu79 2 June 8, 2026, 6:34am

Google AI Studio’s “ Delete” Button Is Misleading Gemini API Google AI...

Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading - Gemini API - Google AI Developers Forum (2026. 06. 08. 8：30：37)

Bitu79 3 June 8, 2026, 7:47am



Google AI Studio's "Delete" button is misleading

gemini-api

Here is what actually happened during my test: I created a prompt, deleted it, emptied the Google Drive Trash, and the JSON file was completely gone. Then I used Google's official recovery tool. The prompt reappeared, and the model immediately...

Bitu79 4 June 9, 2026, 8:18am

I would like to report that two registered letters sent to Google LLC regarding my data protection request were successfully delivered in the United States, yet I have received no response from Google.

Tracking numbers:

-- RR019223565HU – delivered on 12 May 2026

-- RR019223605HU – delivered on 8 May 2026

According to the official confirmation from the Hungarian Post, both items were delivered by the United States Postal Service.

The CN07 international return receipt also contains the official USPS date stamp.

Evidence attached:

-- Official delivery confirmation letters from the Hungarian Post

-- CN07 international return receipt (with USPS stamp)

These documents confirm that Google LLC received my correspondence, yet no progress has been made on my GDPR request.

I kindly ask the Google support team or the appropriate representative to:

-- confirm receipt of my request,

-- verify that it has been registered in your internal system,

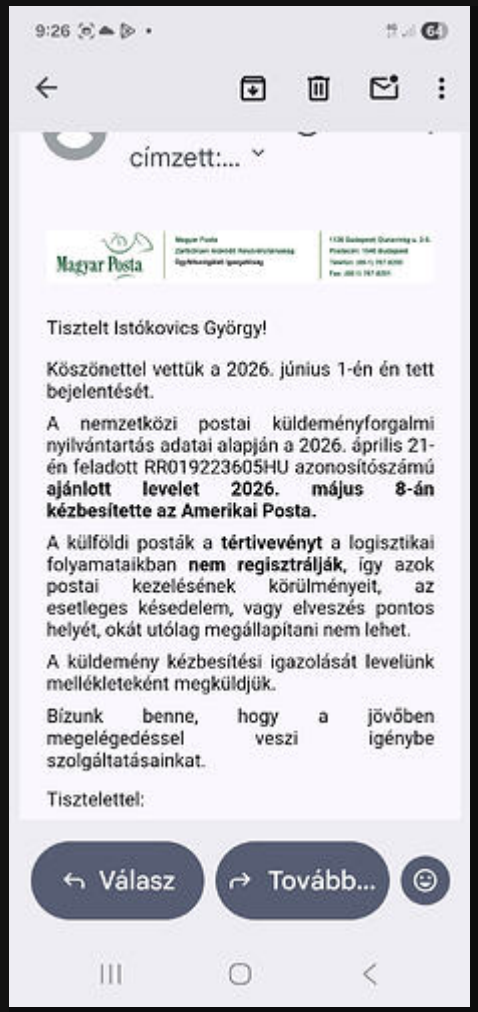
-- provide an update on the current status and expected timeline.

Thank you.

All evidence has been uploaded to the Internet Archive for public access and independent verification.

Gmail Re FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY NOTICE – PROOF OF WILLFUL MISCONDUCT AND PRIOR...

[Saját fájlok]_20260609_100157.PDF

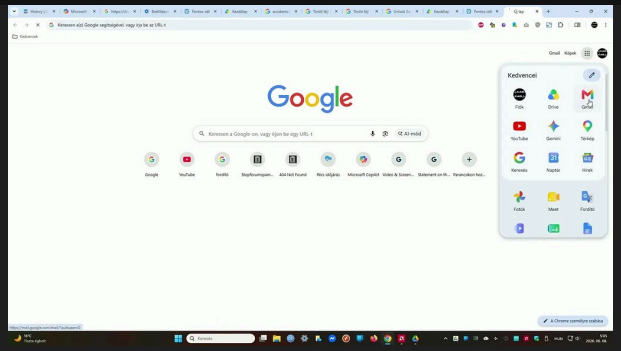

9:26
címzett:...
Magyar Posta
Tisztelt Istókovics György!
Köszönettel vettük a 2026. június 1-én én tett bejelentését.
A nemzetközi postai küldeményforgalmi nyilvántartás adatai alapján a 2026. április 21-én feladott RR019223605HU azonosítószámú ajánlott levelet 2026. május 8-án kézbesítette az Amerikai Posta.
A külföldi posták a tértivevényt a logisztikai folyamataikban nem regisztrálják, így azok postai kezelésének körülményeit, az esetleges késedelem, vagy elveszés pontos helyét, okát utólag megállapítani nem lehet.
A küldemény kézbesítési igazolását levelünk mellékleteként megküldjük.
Bízunk benne, hogy a jövőben megelégedéssel veszi igénybe szolgáltatásainkat.
Tisztelettel:
Válasz
Tovább...

9:25
valas... 9:09
címzett:...
Magyar Posta
Tisztelt Istókovics György!
Köszönettel vettük a 2026. június 1-én én tett bejelentését.
A nemzetközi postai küldeményforgalmi nyilvántartás adatai alapján a 2026. április 30-án feladott RR019223565HU azonosítószámú **ajánlott levelet 2026. május 12-én kézbesítette az Amerikai Posta.**
A külföldi posták a **tértivevényt** a logisztikai folyamataikban **nem regisztrálják**, így azok postai kezelésének körülményeit, az esetleges késedelem, vagy elveszés pontos helyét, okát utólag megállapítani nem lehet.
A küldemény kézbesítési igazolását levelünk mellékleteként megküldjük.
Válasz
Tovább...
31

Bitu79 5 June 9, 2026, 8:30am

Google AI Studio's "Delete" button is misleading

gemini-api



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Google AI Studio's "Delete" button is misleading

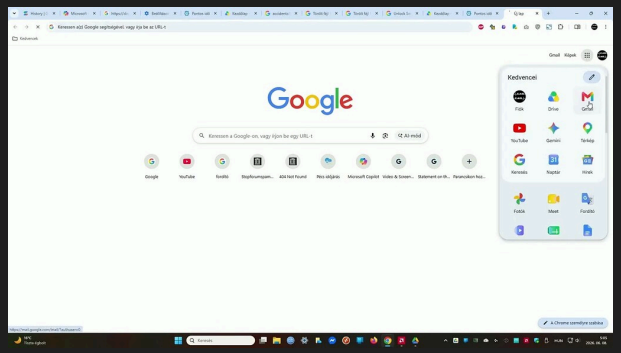
gemini-api

I would like to report that two registered letters sent to Google LLC regarding my data protection request were successfully delivered in the United States, yet I have received no response from Google. Tracking numbers: -- RR019223565HU –...

Bitu79 6 June 9, 2026, 9:31am

The purpose of this post is solely to create a public record of the letters I sent to Google that were successfully delivered.

Bitu79 7 June 9, 2026, 9:44am



Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading

gemini-api

Here is what actually happened during my test: I created a prompt, deleted it, emptied the Google Drive Trash, and the JSON file was completely gone. Then I used Google’s official recovery tool. The prompt reappeared, and the model immediately...

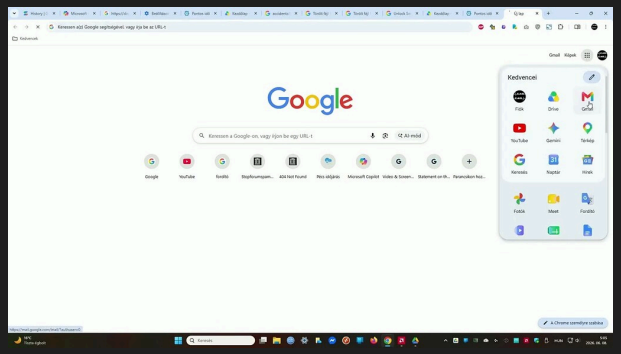
Bitu79 8 June 9, 2026, 10:53am

The legal departments of tech giants like Google know exactly how much risk they face when up against an individual who has more than just a complaint, but a unique and irrefutable technical proof. I have put this evidence together in black and white on Google’s own forums, through the JSON file recovery process and by documenting the unlawful profiling practices of AI Overview.

Their lawyers must weigh whether it is worth taking such a case all the way to a court ruling. If this goes before a judge, they face the real danger of a landmark precedent being set against them—one that could force them to re-engineer the entire server-side architecture and backend of both AI Studio and AI Overview. This is something they want to avoid at all costs.

It is precisely for this reason that, in the early stages of litigation, Google’s attorneys are often forced to contact the plaintiff directly with an out-of-court settlement offer. In this formal agreement, they commit to permanently and manually deleting the data from their servers and completely halting the profiling, in exchange for dismissing the upcoming litigation that may be initiated shortly.

Bitu79 9 June 9, 2026, 11:04am

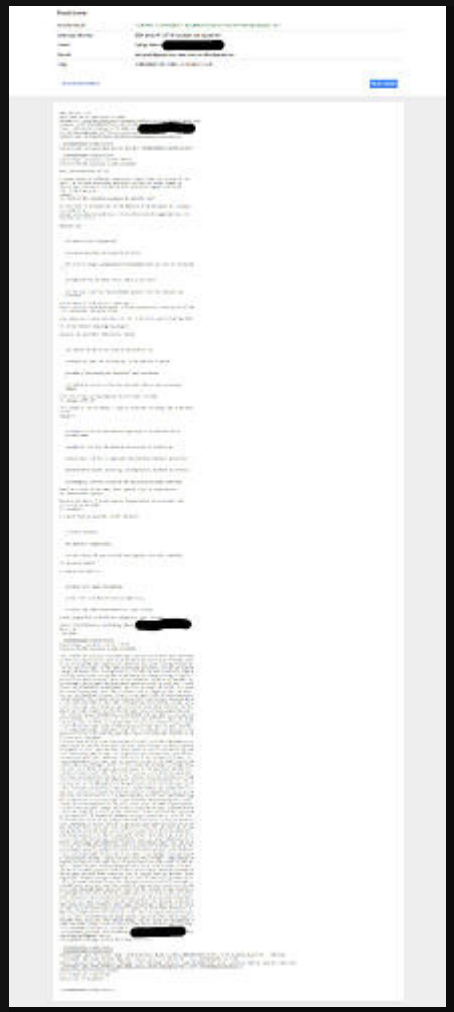


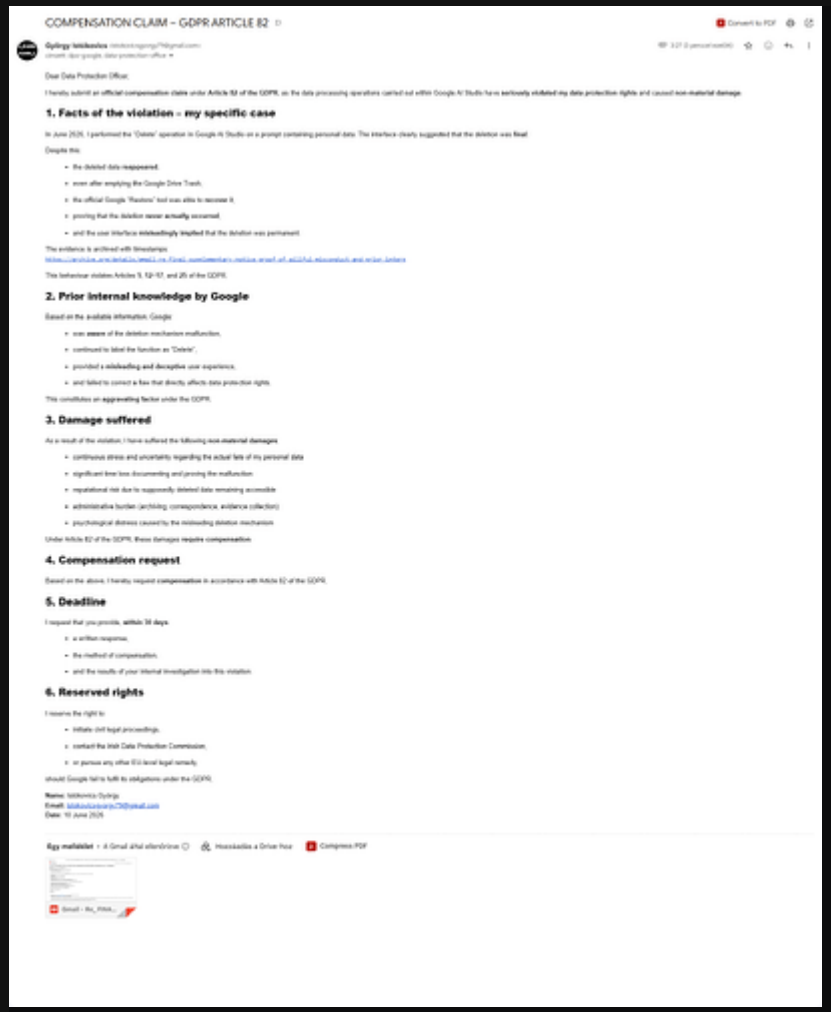
Google AI Studio's "Delete" button is misleading

gemini-api

Here is what actually happened during my test: I created a prompt, deleted it, emptied the Google Drive Trash, and the JSON file was completely gone. Then I used Google's official recovery tool. The prompt reappeared, and the model immediately...

Bitu79 10 June 10, 2026, 1:35am





COMPENSATION CLAIM – GDPR ARTICLE 82

Convert to PDF

György Iskikovics [redacted]

[redacted]

Dear Data Protection Officer,

I hereby submit an official compensation claim under Article 82 of the GDPR, as the data processing operations carried out within Google AI Studio have seriously violated my data protection rights and caused non-material damage.

1. Facts of the violation – my specific case

In June 2025, I performed the "Delete" operation in Google AI Studio on a prompt containing personal data. The interface clearly suggested that the deletion was final.

Despite this:

- the deleted data reappeared,
- even after emptying the Google Drive Trash,
- the official Google "Restore" tool was able to recover it,
- proving that the deletion never actually occurred,
- and the user interface misleadingly implied that the deletion was permanent.

The evidence is archived with timestamps:
[redacted]

This behaviour violates Articles 5, 12–17, and 25 of the GDPR.

2. Prior internal knowledge by Google

Based on the available information, Google:

- was aware of the deletion mechanism malfunction,
- continued to label the function as "Delete",
- provided a misleading and deceptive user experience,
- and failed to correct a flaw that directly affects data protection rights.

This constitutes an aggravating factor under the GDPR.

3. Damage suffered

As a result of the violation, I have suffered the following non-material damages:

- continuous stress and uncertainty regarding the actual fate of my personal data
- significant time loss documenting and proving the malfunction
- reputational risk due to supposedly deleted data remaining accessible
- administrative burden (archiving, correspondence, evidence collection)
- psychological distress caused by the misleading deletion mechanism

Under Article 82 of the GDPR, these damages require compensation.

4. Compensation request

Based on the above, I hereby request compensation in accordance with Article 82 of the GDPR.

5. Deadline

I request that you provide, within 30 days:

- a written response,
- the method of compensation,
- and the results of your internal investigation into this violation.

6. Reserved rights

I reserve the right to:

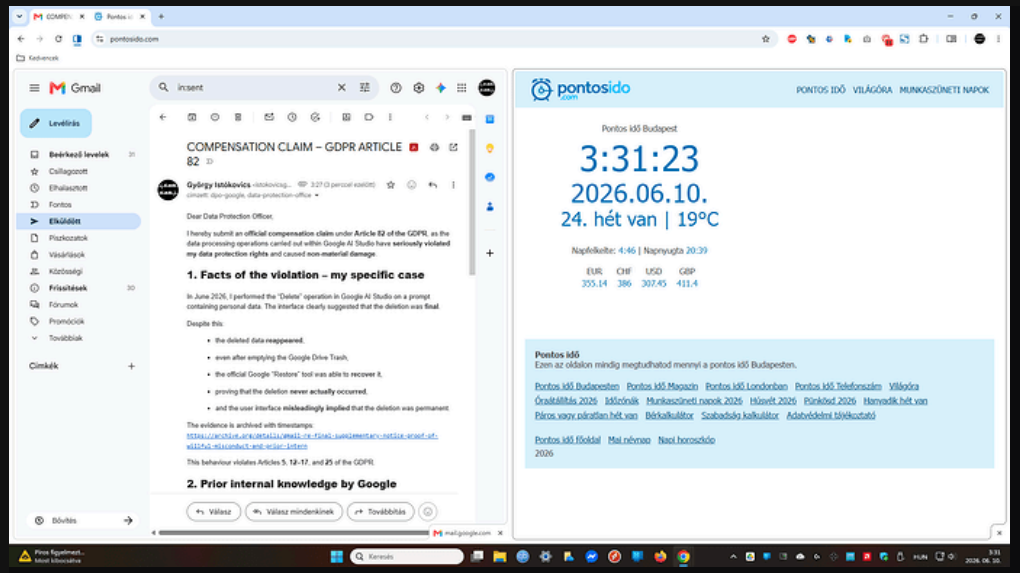
- initiate civil legal proceedings,
- contact the Irish Data Protection Commission,
- or pursue any other EU-level legal remedy,

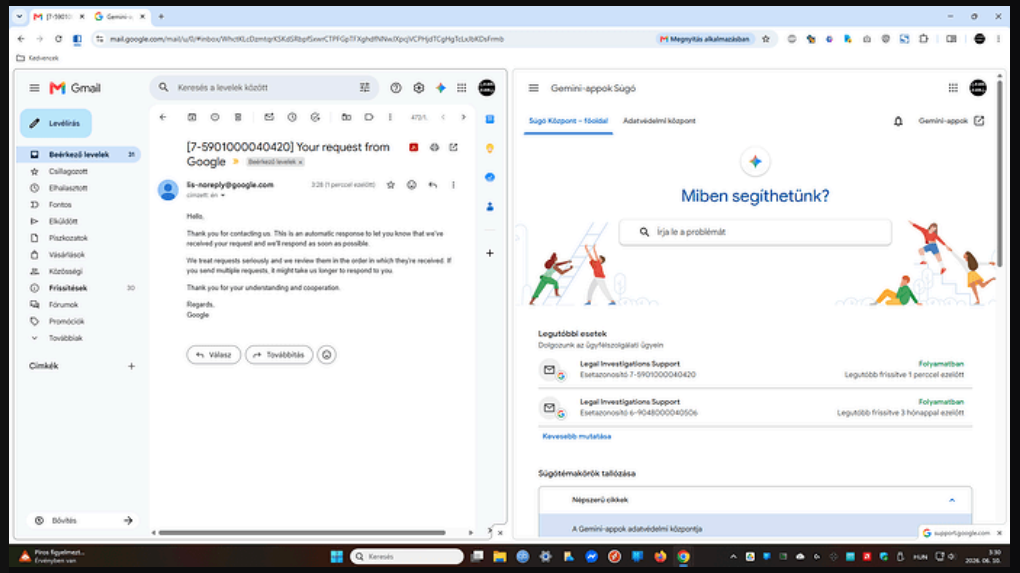
should Google fail to fulfil its obligations under the GDPR.

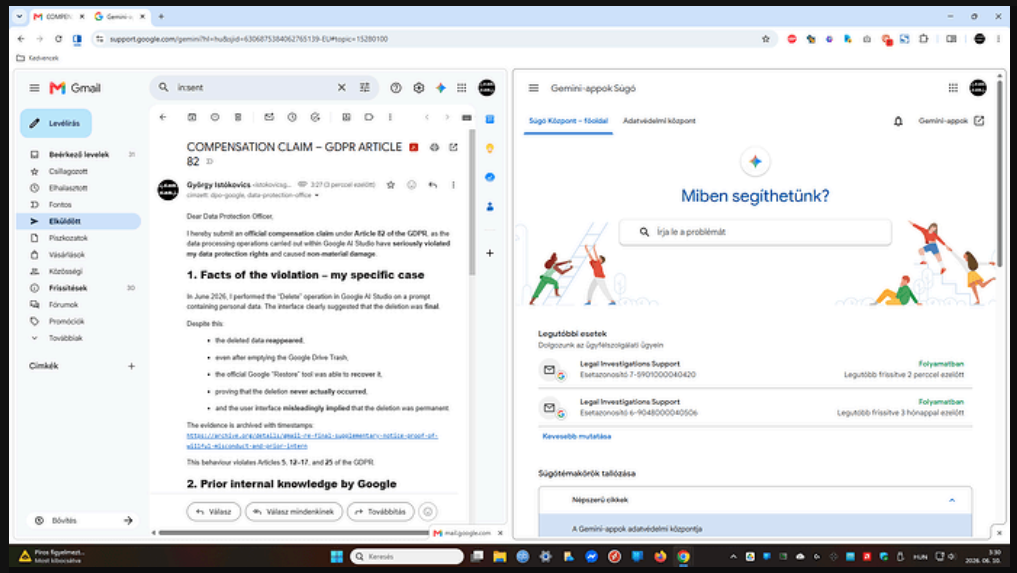
Name: Iskikovics György
Email: [redacted]
Date: 10 June 2025

Egy melléklet • A Gmail által ellenőrizve Hozzáadás a Drive-hoz Compress PDF

Gmail - Re_ FINA...


Gmail
COMPENSATION CLAIM – GDPR ARTICLE 82
1. Facts of the violation – my specific case
2. Prior internal knowledge by Google
pontosido.com
Pontos idő Budapest
3:31:23
2026.06.10.
24. hét van | 19°C


Gmail
[7-5901000040420] Your request from Google
Gemini-appok Súgó
Miben segíthetünk?
Írja le a problémát
Legutóbbi esetek


Gmail
in:sent
COMPENSATION CLAIM – GDPR ARTICLE 82
György Istókovics
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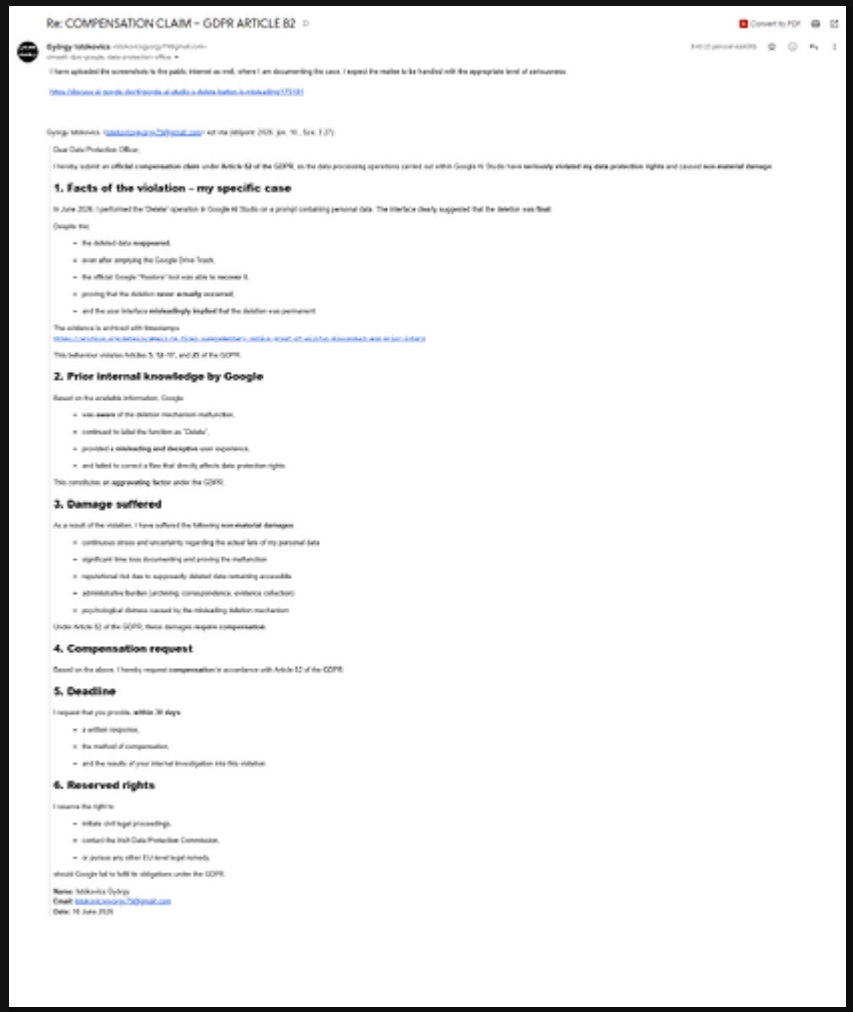
This behaviour violates Articles 5, 12–17, and 25 of the GDPR.
2. Prior internal knowledge by Google
Válasz
Válasz mindenkinek
Továbbítás
Gemini-appok Súgó
Súgó Központ – főoldal
Adatvédelmi központ
Gemini-appok
Miben segíthetünk?
Írja le a problémát
Legutóbbi esetek
Legal Investigations Support
Esetazonosító 7-5901000040420
Folyamatban
Legutóbb frissítve 2 perccel ezelőtt
Legal Investigations Support
Esetazonosító 6-9048000040506
Folyamatban
Legutóbb frissítve 3 hónappal ezelőtt
Kevesebb mutatása
Súgótémakörök tallózása
Népszerű cikkek
A Gemini-appok adatvédelmi központja



Re: COMPENSATION CLAIM – GDPR ARTICLE 82

György Ivánkovics

I have uploaded the screenshots to the public internet as well, where I am documenting the case. I expect the matter to be handled with the appropriate level of seriousness.

Dear Data Protection Officer,

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- continued to label the function as "Delete",
- provided a misleading and deceptive user experience,
- and failed to correct a flaw that directly affects data protection rights.

This constitutes an aggravating factor under the GDPR.

3. Damage suffered

As a result of the violation, I have suffered the following non-material damages:

- continuous stress and uncertainty regarding the actual fate of my personal data,
- significant time loss documenting and proving the malfunction,
- reputational risk due to supposedly deleted data remaining accessible,
- administrative burden (archiving, correspondence, evidence collection),
- psychological distress caused by the misleading deletion mechanism.

Under Article 82 of the GDPR, these damages require compensation.

4. Compensation request

Based on the above, I hereby request compensation in accordance with Article 82 of the GDPR.

5. Deadline

I request that you provide, within 30 days:

- a written response,
- the method of compensation,
- and the results of your internal investigation into this violation.

6. Reserved rights

I reserve the right to:

- initiate civil legal proceedings,
- contact the Irish Data Protection Commission,
- or pursue any other EU-level legal remedy,

should Google fail to fulfill its obligations under the GDPR.

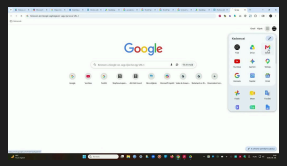
Name: Ivánkovics György
Email:
Date: 10 June 2026

I have notified Google directly, and under the applicable law they are required to respond.

Bitu79 11 June 10, 2026, 2:21am

I have already notified Google directly, and under the applicable law they are required to respond. I have uploaded the screenshots to the public internet as well, where I am documenting the case. Now

answer my questions: how do you dare to keep user prompts after deletion? The GDPR clearly does not allow this.



Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading

gemini-api

Here is what actually happened during my test: I created a prompt, deleted it, emptied the Google Drive Trash, and the JSON file was completely gone. Then I used Google’s official recovery tool. The prompt reappeared, and the model immediately...

Reading time: 3 mins 🕑 Likes: 1 ♥

Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading

gemini-api

I have notified Google directly, and under the applicable law they are required to respond.

Bitu79 12 June 10, 2026, 2:33am

Fire Shot Capture 256 Google AI Studio’s “ Delete” Button Is Misleading...

FireShot Capture 256 - Google AI Studio’s “Delete” button is misleading - Gemini API - Goo_ - [discuss.ai.google.dev]

Related topics

Topic	Replies	Views	Activity
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Topic	Replies	Views	Activity
Deleted chats in Google AI Studio remain fully accessible and functional for 32 days (video proof) – no actual deletion happening ui	11	641	June 7, 2026